

Serial No.: 10/646,351

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, and 11-16 are pending in this application, claim 10 having been canceled above. Claims 1 and 9 are the independent claims.

The allowability of claims 1 and 3-8 is gratefully acknowledged.

The indication of allowability of claims 10 and 11 if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is gratefully acknowledged.

Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 10. Claim 11 has been amended to refer to claim 9. Accordingly, Applicants believe independent claim 9 and claims 11-16, which depend from and further define the invention of claim 9, is now allowable.

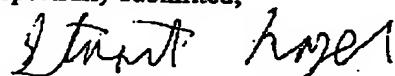
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes there are still unresolved issues, a telephone call to the undersigned would be welcomed.

Fees

If there are any fees due and owing in respect to this amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge such fees to deposit account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,



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